I live in an area which is 'serviced' by AT&T cable. I would very much like to have the option of switching to satellite, but at the present time they do not offer any broadcast channels in my area. If the government can exact the proper guarantees and controls I would be in favor of the merger. At this point cable operators have no incentive to improve their services because of lack of direct competition. Perhaps this merger would make satellites a viable alternative to cable and wake the cable companies from their stupors.